

Language and Literature

VOC 6

All the words in this lesson may be associated with language and literature.

- admirable** ADJ. deserving high regard or praise (The hero's kindness, intelligence, and wit are all *admirable* traits.)
- classic** N. a work of literature or art of the highest quality (Because people have read the book with pleasure for years, Mark Twain's *Tom Sawyer* is considered a *classic*.)
- climax** N. the turning point or point of highest excitement in a play or novel (We held our breath during the *climax* of the murder mystery.)
- delineate** V. to sketch or outline; portray (Through a brief history of the feud between the two families, the writer will *delineate* the play's conflict.)
- enrich** V. to improve or make richer (Reading will *enrich* your life by acquainting you with new ways of looking at the world.)
- figurative** ADJ. using words for a vivid or dramatic effect rather than for their literal meaning ("It's raining cats and dogs" is *figurative* language.)
- imagery** N. the use of words to appeal to the senses (The *imagery* of a rosy-fingered dawn helps you visualize an early morning sky.)
- improper** ADJ. incorrect; not proper ("We done our homework" is an example of *improper* grammar.)
- literary** ADJ. having to do with literature (Greg's *literary* club meets every Monday night to discuss the books they have read.)
- locale** N. the setting of a written work (The *locale* of the story is a small, midwestern town during the Depression.)
- myth** N. a story told in ancient times to explain life and nature (The *myth* of Narcissus examines self-love through the story of a boy who falls in love with his own reflection.)
- prologue** N. an introduction to a play, novel, or other literary work (The *prologue* gave background information about the main character's childhood.)
- scoundrel** N. a villain (Although the prince was handsome, he was a *scoundrel* who used others to get what he wanted.)
- seminar** N. a conference at which information and opinions are exchanged (Ramona plans to attend a *seminar* about writing and selling children's literature.)
- stanza** N. a section or division of a poem (The first *stanza* is repeated at the end of the ballad.)
- symbolize** V. to stand for something else (A robin or a flower may *symbolize* spring.)
- tendency** N. a natural disposition to move, act, or think in a certain way (The author's work needs editing because he has a *tendency* to use run-on sentences.)
- translation** N. something that is expressed in another language (Only minor details were lost in the *translation* of the story from Japanese to English.)
- unravel** V. to work out the problems of or make clear (The story's bumbling detective could not *unravel* the mystery.)
- unsavory** ADJ. unpleasant; having a bad reputation (He was an *unsavory* character with shifty eyes and a violent temper.)

Exercise 1

Write the letter of the word that best completes the sentence.

- The suspense grew steadily until the _____ of the story.
 A. prologue B. seminar C. classic D. climax
- She must memorize one _____ of the poem.
 A. scoundrel B. stanza C. seminar D. tendency